

Varona

24 March 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Staffing of the Revolutionary Council

1. Around noon of 24 March 1961 Mr. Carr advised us telephonically that he had been in touch with Miro Cardosa. Miro intends to appoint Varona, Eovia, Carrillo, Arturo and Ray (or Pinoe) to the Council.

2. Miro wanted to be advised whether Varona and Eovia would be acceptable to positions as Secretaries of Defense and State (Miro did not feel strongly as to which of the two got which position). The other above-mentioned individuals would temporarily act as ministers without portfolio. Even the appointments to the positions of State and Defense would not now be announced. Carr wanted to know if the foregoing was alright with us.

3. The question of the best suited candidate for the position of Secretary of Defense was discussed by Messrs. [Noel] and Breller subsequent to Mr. Carr's telephone call. It happened that C/AD and AC/AD/4 were at that moment in the office of the DCI and thus the problem was referred to that level for the decision. The following decision relayed to Messrs. [Noel] and Breller by the AC/AD/4 was transmitted to Mr. Carr at 1030 this date: 03

a. Mr. Carr should try to persuade Miro to give Arturo the portfolio of Defense Secretary. Carr could give as reasons for our feelings Arturo's popularity, his youth, his ability and readiness to go into Cuba together with the adult force.

b. If Miro does not want Arturo assigned to this position, Carr should inform Miro that our next preference would be Carlos Mervi; our reasons are that Varona might raise many problems in view of his well-known position concerning strict Cuban control of troops at this particular time.

c. Whatever develops during this forthcoming meeting with Miro, Mr. Carr should at all times be most flexible and not demand anything.

Mr. Carr was also advised to tell Miro that we would prefer only the man given the portfolio of Defense to accompany Miro on his forthcoming trip to the camps. If however either Eovia or Varona were given the portfolio, then we feel either one should be accompanied by Arturo for reasons already stated above.

GERARD BRELLER

1 Book II
1 EC Organization
1 EC Military
1 EOL files
1 MI/4/PA Carros

RETURN TO CIA
Background Use Only
Do Not Reproduce

2/PV